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COLOR

Alice M. Clark

CHRISTMAS PLANTS

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Begonias For Winter Color . . .

By ALICE M. CLARK

It used to be said that growing begonias was a royal hobby. Perhaps it was necessary to have a king's purse when it took an expensive conservatory to raise the plants, but now, in Southern California, we are discovering more every day about the hardiness of begonias and finding a lath-house is not essential to their well-being. I think we should have known how sturdy this plant family is, sooner, for what weakling could ever have withstood the pampered life they lead in the window-gardens of our eastern friends, in winter?

San Diegans have been raising several varieties of the summer blooming begonias out of doors in a shady place for years. This is particularly true of the tall bamboo type, with its spotted angel wings; the lovely Coralline de Lucerne, whose branches have hung heavy with pink and red bells for months; Argenteo-Guttata, sometimes called the Trout Begonia, for its silvery-dotted markings and, of course, the marvelous Hybrid Tuberous, with their breath-taking blooms.

While waiting for our bulbs to bloom in April, most of us are trying to figure out how to have some color in the garden. Why not try the winter-blooming varieties of begonias? One gets much pleasure from gardenias, camellias and azaleas, but their blooming season is short as compared with that of begonias, the initial expense is more

and the rate of growth much slower. Little plants which I purchased in three-inch pots in the spring are now two feet high and starting long bloom stalks. Slips of many kinds bloom when less than a foot high. Even if there were no flowers, the variation of form and color in the foliage is a picture in itself. Given the right soil and food, they thrive apace and have the added advantage of being more nearly pest-free than anything in the garden.

When you go to a nursery to select begonias there is an embarrassment of riches. In the first place, their number is legion and, like Miss Session's favorite ceanothus, most of them have some bloom all the time. In the second place, they are so different in appearance and all so charming that one only chooses with difficulty. Let me try to point out a few kinds that will bloom in the dull period from now to April, to be placed in certain spots and perhaps save you the disconcertion I always feel in taking so much of the dealer's time when I only want a few plants for special places.

Bushy, Small-Leaf Types

If you want a tall grower that has small leaves, an inch or less long, feathering out like a maidenhair fern and making a wonderful background of rich green, with little pink coral tassels at all its tips, ask for MULTIFLORA ROSEA,

which lives up to its name and, believe it or not, blooms all the year around. It slips so easily I wonder how it ever has a sale; and yet, when you see it, you will want a large one at once, because it is so lovely, and you will start raising plants to give to all your friends.

It has a companion type from Mexico called FUCHSIODES, which is not as graceful in growth, but is covered with charming scarlet blooms, like miniature fuchsias. In their native land, muleteers chew the acid leaves of this variety to quench their thirst.

Slightly larger-leaved, bushier, and very free-blooming is ROBUSTA. As its name indicates, it is very hardy and enjoys full sun. The pink flowers are larger, on a drooping pedicel but there is so much red in the stems and leaf edges and seed pods that the plant has a tawny look.

There is another begonia, called DIGSWELLIANA, that closely resembles Robusta. In the improved form, which we owe to that fine local hybridist, Mrs. Fewkes of Montalvo Gardens, the flowers are white and red and the leaves are larger and more ruffled, so it has a richer appearance, and its habit of growth gives the effect of a fountain of soft bloom.

Charles Saunders of Chicago improved a Mexican species of medium height, known as INCARNATA, in that its bright pink flowers among the long ruffled leaves makes a very handsome display.

A splendid shrubby sort with reddish stems is sometimes called the

PEACH-LEAF, from the shape of its light-green foliage. Its origin is unknown, save that it was discovered in San Diego on WASHINGTON STREET, a name it often goes by. It has clusters of white flowers weighing down the tips of the tall graceful branches.

Smooth, Light-Green, Poplar-Leaf Type

This sort should be selected to light up certain places, which seem dull or heavy.

VITAFOLIA has leaves like those of grapes, hence its name. It blooms in early spring with small pink flowers in large clusters, and has rusty brown hairs on the under side of the shining green leaf.

ODORATA ALBA is an old stand-by. Tall and graceful, it bears panicles of sweet-scented, white flowers all through the year. Its leaves are clean and bright and it likes more sun than most. ODO-RATA ROSEA or NITIDA is the pink form, in fine bloom now.

ROSEA GIGANTEA is the Christmas gift of the begonia family. It is a medium tall type with a sizeable leaf, distinguished by a bright red spot where the leaf and stem unite. Its gay rose-red blooms can always be counted on for the holiday season.

Coarser and of rapid growth, is MACCHU PICHU, also called ROEZLI. It comes from seed gathered in the old Mayan ruins in Peru. It also has light green leaves and rosy flowers.

Hairy types, for Large, Effective Masses

This group is so similar it is very confusing but all are easily recognized by their large hairy leaves, usually red beneath, and have very panicles of erect or drooping flowers.

HAAGEANA, one of the original species introduced from Brazil in 1887 by Haage and Schmidt, has been much improved, and yet one always gets a thrill on seeing the original type with its truly enormous sprays of white or pink flowers, bowed to the ground with their own weight. It blooms most of the year and has red hairs on the outside flower petals which look like

(Continued on page 8)

Christmas Plants—Note the Name

By ETTA FLORENCE ADAIR

A fine shrub is our California Holly, or Christmas Berry, native along the North American Pacific Coast. The Spanish name of the plant is Tollon, or Toyon, apparently of Mexican-Indian origin.

Botanically the California Holly is the *Heteromeles arbutifolia* or *Photinia arbutifolia*, for some of our botanists use the one, and some use the other of these two binomials. The Swiss botanist, Johan Jacob Roemer, 1763-1819, established the genus *Heteromeles* and gave to its one species the name *arbutifolia*. Later, John Lindley, noted English botanist, placed the *arbutifolia* species in his newly established genus, *Photinia*. *Heteromeles* and *Photinia* are related genera in the family Rosaceae, or apple family, of the order Rosales.

Heteromeles is New Latin, from the Greek *Heteros*, other, different, and the Greek *melon*, apple; that is, a different apple. *Photinia* is New Latin, from the Greek *photoinos*, shining, bright, from *phos*, light. The name has reference to the coriaceous and shining evergreen leaves and white flowers of many of the species. The specific name, *arbutifolia*, is New Latin, from the ancient Latin *Arbutus* and *folium*, leaf. It implies a likeness of the *Tollon* leaf to that of the *Arbutus*.

The *Tollon* is planted in England, where it is known as the May-bush, because of its relation to the Hawthorn. Indeed the genus is closely related to that of the Hawthorn.

2. Several common names are associated with our *Islay*. We hear it called California Cherry, Mountain Cherry, Evergreen Cherry, Spanish Wild Cherry, Holly-leaved Cherry, and Holly-laurel. *Islay* is Spanish, probably of Indian origin.

The *Islay* is botanically *Prunus ilicifolia*. Linnaeus is the authority for the generic name, which is from the Latin *prunus*, a plum tree. The genus embraces the plums and the cherries, and is related to other stone fruits, as the almond and the

peach, in the family Amygdalaceae, of the order Rosales.

Wilhelm Gerhard Walpers, 1816-1853, is the authority for the specific name, *ilicifolia*. It is from the Latin *Ilex*, the holm oak, and *folium*, leaf; literally, holly-leaved, or ilex-leaved.

The leaves of *Prunus ilicifolia* are dark green, lighter underneath, spiny-toothed like the holly leaf. The flowers are cream-white, in erect or ascending racemes. The fruits are cherry-like and dark red. They do not persist through the winter, but the foliage of the *Islay* and the bright berries of the *Tollon* are effectively combined in decoration.

3. Our Madrone tree, called also the exalted manzanita, is botanically the *Arbutus Menziesii*. *Arbutus* is the ancient Latin name of the Wild Strawberry Tree. Linnaeus was the first to use it botanically. The genus embraces trees and shrub of the family Ericaceae, the heather family.

The specific name is authorized by Frederick T. Pursh, or Pursch, 1744-1820, a German, but twelve years in the United States, who wished thus to honor the name of Archibald Menzies, who made known this plant to science.

The Madrone is an ancient plant of Spain. The name is derived from the Greek *memekylon*, ancient name of the Madrone tree. In Spanish-speaking countries the Madrone is the Strawberry Tree; however, our botanists have made the Strawberry Tree the *Arbutus unedo*.

The Madrone is a picturesque tree, growing to the height of 100 feet in the woods. It has shining, leathery leaves, white, bell-shaped flowers, resembling the lily-of-the-valley, and bright orange-red fruits.

4. Desert Holly is so-called because the tiny leaf resembles the holly-leaf. It is a saltbush, and botanically the *Atriplex hymenelytra*. *Atriplex* is the name given by Linnaeus to this genus. It is the

ancient Latin name of the orach, or mountain spinach. It is apparently a perversion of the Greek *atrafaxus*, Greek name of the orach. In the Latin form it has the look of being derived from *ater*, black and *plexus*, interwoven; that is, interwoven with black. *Atriplex* is a genus of the family *Chenopodiaceae*, the goosefoot family.

Hymenelytra is New Latin, from the Greek *hymen*, a membrane, and *elytron*, a cover, as a case or sheath. It would seem that some organ of the plant has a membranous sheath, but I have no authority for the reference.

5. Also for the Yuletide we have the American Mistletoe, a hemiparasitic plant, widely scattered through the South, and extending in the United States as far north as New Jersey. It is botanically the *Phoradendron flavescens*. Thomas Nuttall, 1786-1859, an Anglo-American botanist, is authority for the binomial.

Phoradendron is New Latin, from the Greek *phor*, thief, and *dendron*, tree, literally, tree-thief, an allusion to the parasitic habit of the plant. *Flavescens* is a Latin participial adjective, meaning somewhat yellow.

The American Mistletoe is called also False Mistletoe, because although it is of the Mistletoe family, *Loranthaceae*, it is not the true Mistletoe, *Viscum album*, which is European.

NOVEMBER MEETING

This month the meeting of the San Diego Floral association provided a most profitable and gratifying evening. Mr. Enar Lowenburg, who is connected with the Eastman Kodak Company, exhibited a large number of colored pictures of high quality and excellence. There were great numbers of flowers collectively and singly, the pictures taken all the way from Oregon to San Diego.

There were scenes of the Lambert Gardens, Portland, Ore., which consisted of ten gardens and thirty acres of growing grounds where every effort is made to display the world's newest and finest roses and flowers.

(Continued on page 4)

Notes From a Native Plant Garden

By Frank Forrest Gander

This morning, slightly before dawn, I lay abed, not quite awake and yet not sleeping. Suddenly, I was startled into full wakefulness by a sound as of raindrops patterning on the roof of my sleeping porch. Incredulously I listened as the patter changed to the beat of steady rain.

A tropical storm had been raging south of us, but even the weatherman had not expected it to bring precipitation to us here. For four hours or more, the rain continued, slackening at times and then increasing again. How delightful it was after four and a half months of drouth with only a scant sprinkle or two! How cleaned and refreshed were my plants, like children with freshly scrubbed hands and faces.

Probably not much growth will result from this rain for it only wet the upper few inches of the soil, and there may be two weeks to a month of dry weather before the autumn rains begin. But this is an opportunity for me to wean those baby plants which have been set out during the summer and which have been receiving waterings. A short rest before the wet season will probably do them good.

This has been an opportunity, too, for setting out two plants that I have had in cans. One of these is a Big-berried Manzanita which I dug up in the brush last June. The plant was some eighteen inches or so high, but since the roots were badly broken, it was trimmed back to about half this height with only one small branch. It has been standing still all summer but recently developed an additional tiny shoot. I have high hopes that this plant will grow, even though a somewhat smaller one brought in last September failed to live. Seed planted has not germinated, but as this is one of the finest of the manzanitas, I shall try repeatedly until I learn to propagate it.

The other plant set out was a small California Juniper. Two of

these little trees were obtained last November. The larger was set out on my hillside, and the smaller was potted in a five-gallon can. Only this last one lived and has been growing. Surely, set out at such a happy time, it will continue to thrive on my hillside.

Sept. 25, 1941

These days are days of expectancy. The surprise rain on the thirteenth woke many of my plants from their summer's sleep but did not bring sufficient moisture to launch them into full growth. The Ocotillo stands decked in fresh verdure, and tiny bits of new green are showing at the ends of the branches of the Mexican Fremontia, with Winter-flowering Currant, and some of the wild lilacs. Life is there, eager to express itself in new growth but held in check until adequate rain has fallen to bring a continuous supply of moisture to the roots.

Most of my plants seem to be waiting impatiently for the rains—only the fall bloomers are not quite ready. The Golden-rod, the Parish's Goldbush, and the California Fuchsia are spreading all of their flower-treasures at once so that they may come to full fruition before they are started on a new cycle of growth by the coming of the rains. What a glory of color these three plants provide!

The California Juniper and the Big-berried Manzanita set out on the day of the rain are both doing nicely. They seem, even, to be growing faster than before. So well did these two plants stand transplanting that I was encouraged to set out others and on the twenty-first, planted in appropriate places, little seedlings of Acton's Encelia, the Harp-pod, and the Elephant-tree. These, too, are thriving, although of course, water is provided to all five of these new members of my garden family.

Young plants which I had been watering and which were entrusted (Continued on page 9)

COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

*Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!*

A WREATH

"Among many reminders of Robert R. McLean there will be the Christmas wreathes this year."

From "Garden Beautiful," KGB, Sundays at 10:45 a.m.: This program feels very worth while when it can offer a passing salute to those who have lived in San Diego so thoroughly that the work of their minds and hands is seen in the thriving plants of every garden here. A short time ago the residents of a ranch home read of the passing of Robert R. McLean, our county agricultural commissioner. And their minds went back eighteen years, when Mr. McLean came to tell them about their newly purchased home. Smooth-haired, kind faced, soft spoken, he looked at a young wild holly bush, told them what it was and why they should save it.

Today that once scrawny bush is bearing a rounded dome of reddening berries some fifteen feet in diameter. Over a dozen of its descendants are developing into a fine wild holly hedge. "And," said Mr. McLean, "That young lemon tree will come in handy. Take care of it." The lemon is a giant, now, that supplies a neighborhood with vitamins. "You'll enjoy that fig tree," said Mr. McLean. And we have had many generations of mocking birds besides. This is the memorial one man's family grew to Robert R. McLean; only one of many, many, in San Diego County.

—Ada Perry.

NOVEMBER MEETING

(Continued from page 3)

His ten gardens of unparalleled beauty consist of: The Informal Gardens; The Canyon Garden; The Terrace Gardens; The Old-Fashioned Garden; The Dahlia Gardens; The Vest Pocket Gardens; The Rainbow Garden; The Sunken Rose Garden; The Rose Court, and The Spanish Pool and Italian Court.

THE GARDENERS READING

The urge comes again to speak of books for the gardener's Christmas. In remembering the season and its perennially acute problem of fitting a gift to the person, this is something that can't very well go wrong if you know your man at all. A necktie can strangle or it may only sear. Then again, it may serve without apologies. A book is what it is as much as wearing apparel, but it doesn't have to be carried forthwith, a flaming blush at the crown of thoughts of the moment. The book can be left on the table for Aunt Sally's visit and the matter of taste need not touch another occasion since the inscription will tell the lumpish story.

Here are two books and a membership or the journal that would go with it. One is for the dreamer of gardens and the other for one who works in one and for that reason has questions to ask. The first is an old one; the other is an old one that has just been revised and

Hattie Rumble-shucks

says "your garden's your own cat and that the skinnin of it should be yours . . . at least in part. Sure, these landscape architects sound alright and mebbe they can help, but why should your garden look like one of them or the fella down the street that has ideas? Ever notice how each house in a neighborhood that's been lived in long enough comes to look like the people that's been in it. That's what children imagine anyway and if you're too far away to feel the ventilation of a idea, go along and turn this place over to a stranger and let him walk around in your own easy slippers."

What she means, of course, is that personality is part and parcel of this place and that it should grow up out of what you are and think about. It's your cat first and the architect can only help you skin it if the fine lines of your individuality are to run through . . . lines of gossamer threads that's gold, "better'n gold to you and yours and even that fella down the street when he drops in to see what you are doin'."

G. M. G.

brought up to date.

Charles Francis Saunders has gone on, but he is remembered by all who have gone with him through the early gardens of Spanish California and that California of God where an unique flora is laid out yearly, a blanket of color for those who are so fortunate as to climb her hills and follow the valleys. If his style is somewhat floriferous . . . he is dealing with flowers, those the Spaniards loved and brought and those that were here when they came; they are discussed and described with feeling and in beauty.

It is almost a story . . . it is the story of a pioneer people who first cut out and roped this land we know as California and tied it down for us. And yet it never will be held down; it is open; it is there for everyone now as it was for these earlier people. It will no more come to you than it did to them. You must go and find it for yourself and when you do, take this volume with you. Sit there on a rock like Lester Rountree and in the high hills let this man tell you of that which is all around.

This book, *With the Flowers and Trees of California*, was published many years ago and if it chances to be out of print, it must be done again in order that following generations of Californians may acquire something of the resplendence there.

And now for the gardener who wants to know; who is always asking questions with intelligence and purpose . . . here are some of the answers in a form so thorough and concise that he will marvel, then gloat in the using of it.

1001 Garden Questions Answered was an old book, too; a book that sold 50,000 copies in its heyday and that must mean something. Today it is back, completely revised and with much more of the flavor of California than was true before. This couldn't help but happen since the author has taken residence here and for some time has been keeping his particular "rocks" and various garden benches warm.

This work approaches the subject
(Continued on page 7)

Gleanings from the Magazines

By Vivian W. Scott

When we first build a new home we are concerned with the placing of important articles of furniture and after the essentials are provided for, we begin to think of the little touches which give individuality. The same thing is true of our gardens; what goes into the beds is all absorbing. Then we begin to think of detail. Elmer C. Peerdy has an article on Borders and Edgings in *Golden Gardens*. He says "Forty years ago all the paths were lined with some edging. The variety was not great, yet the path leading to the door of even the most humble shanty was edged with thyme, santolina, oxalis, primroses, or lacking these, with bricks on edge or old stone, stout bottles set bottoms up in a sloping position. Even in the vegetable garden one invariably found paths edged with thyme or some other evergreen herb or the stout bottle." A marginal planting either in the design of a formal edging of some low plant or successive groups or borders of a number of neat, low plants, preferably of evergreen foliage will add refinement to any border and a finished look to the garden."

Anabel Wyckoff in the same magazine suggests an herb Rock Garden. A dry sunny slope is best and the work can be done any time for the plants are mostly perennials and can be removed from small pots. Shakespeare suggests as a pleasing combination: "Here's flowers for you; hot lavender, mints, savory, marjoram; the Marigold that goes to bed in the sun."

Lester Rountree continues her article from last month on Roadside Planting, and I can't help but think what joy there is in being able to see this beauty as one travels along the road and not just intent on reaching our destination at sixty miler an hour. The time has come when we as a people must meet this demon, speed, slow up . . . and LIVE along the way.

Robert C. Miller calls Miss Alice Eastwood a Perpetual Pioneer. His article is most inspiring. Her life is another example of what concentrated effort will accomplish. He says, "The eight months since her eighty-second birthday on January 18th she has made three major field trips, covering 3,175 miles by automobile and collected 1,288 plants." An Alice Eastwood Fund is being raised for the purpose of adding a wing to The Herbarium in the Academy of Sciences at Golden Gate Park.

Gardeners Chronicle names the Chrysanthemum as the November flower and tells something of its history. Chinese ladies sat in contemplative admiration two thousand years ago. The flower journeyed from the Far East to Europe and then to America. They were introduced into England from China in 1754. It is thought its American debut was about 1810. At this time, Mrs. Alpheus Hardy, the first hairy type in this country, was purchased for \$1500. The flower had been presented to its namesake by a stow-away who had been befriended and sent to school by the ship's captain, Alpheus Hardy, instead of being returned to Japan. When the stow-away eventually returned to his native land he sent Mrs. Hardy the finest Chrysanthemum cuttings he could obtain.

The *Chronicle* shows pictures of very attractive greenhouses. One hardly larger than a hanging shelf with glass on two sides. It is called a window greenhouse, ideal for pot plants and even for propagating purposes. It is very decorative and would add to a wall or the side of a house.

Sunset takes us "antiquing" in California Seed and Nursery Cata' logs. Seeds were brought here in the early days by Spanish Missionaries. Little advance was made until the Gold Rush days. One seafaring horticulturist, Captain George Sheldon, took a load of tropical plants and housed them in temporary greenhouses built on the deck of his boat. Arriving in San Francisco in 1851, he disposed of the stock at \$10.00 a plant and up. Col. J. L. F. Warren put out the

first nursery catalog in 1853. In 1854 a flower show was held in San Francisco. Among the exhibits were twenty-four kinds of fuchsias, eighteen carnations, fourteen geraniums, thirteen camellias, five kinds of acacias. In 1856 William C. Walker imported the first eucalyptus seeds. Two years later he listed three varieties of plants at \$10.00 each. He offered Bermuda grass at \$5.00 a flat! Mr. Walker's 1860 catalogue listed seventy varieties of acacias, a good increase in four years time.

Sub-Tropical Gardens has an interesting article on the sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*). This is a native of the Americas and is related to the morning glory (*Convolvulaceae*). Due to the fact that it has been cultivated for so many generations propagated from cuttings, it rarely flowers, but occasionally it flowers in the tropics thus furnishing new varieties. The yam is an entirely different plant. The taste for sweet potatoes must be cultivated by some people. During the war a large shipment of sweet potatoes was sent to France, but was indignantly refused by the French peasants as being fit only for cattle.

Horticulture tells us of the rose which was selected for the All-America rose of 1942. This is the Hearts Desire, a luminous red rose, that stays red until the last petal drops from the open flower. It has vigor, disease resistance and rich foliage, with the ability to produce many flowers on long stems throughout the season.

A TANNIN' FOR JAPAN

After long research, experts of a leather company in Osaka, Japan, are raising a species of acacia producing tannin. This essential of the leather industry is imported from Australia and Africa, although Japan obtains a little from oak bark from Hokkaido. Because the trees are tropical it was considered impossible to grow them in Japan. The experts planted the experimental trees four years ago. Today they are from 23 to 26 feet high. Tannin can be obtained from the bark of trees eight to nine years old.

This Churchyard of the Living

By VIVIAN M. SALE

—AN INVENTORY

Situated at the top of and descending part way down a steep hill; built round, too, the Spanish type of Church and Parish Hall below, is the garden of the Church of the New Jerusalem—sometimes called New Church or Swedenborgian Church—of San Diego, California; a garden which has won first prizes in local contests arranged by the San Diego Floral Association.

In the border abutting on the parking space in front of the church are three palm trees (*Cocos Plumeria*) and around their bases and between them amongst rocks scattered here and there are various succulents (*Mesembryanthemums*, *Echeverias*, *Aloes*, *Sedums*, etc.)

Parallel with this border, but on the other side of the sidewalk and protecting the antiquated railtype fence, (familiar to those from "back east," but with the top rail laid upside down—that is, its edged surface uppermost instead of below, (to prevent small boys from using the fence as a restingplace)—is a border containing dwarf *Pyracanthas* and *Cotoneasters*, berried shrubs whose bright red fruit gives attractive masses of color, as do also the scarlet flowering thorny *Euphorbia splendens*. This is related to the *Poinsettia*, as will readily be seen if a stem is broken off, causing to flow the same kind of milky fluid which forms the sap of the *Poinsettia*.

Succulents are used freely in this border and bulbs, such as *freesias* and pure white bloom of *allium*, help to give variety. Several vines are also trained about the fence which separates this border from the lawn within the church grounds proper; *Hoya carcosa*, with its dark green fleshy leaves and crowns of waxy sweet-scented little flowers; *Hardenbergia comptoniana*, with its lovely dark blue racemes (a most elegant and charming little winter-blooming vine); *Ampelopsis heterophylla*, denuded of foliage, flowers and fruit in winter but beautiful in

spring with its exquisite, variegated leaves and berries of a wondrous china blue; *jessamine*, with its sweet scented yellow blossoms; *passiflora*, of a kind unidentified as yet and whose first bloom is being awaited with eagerness; *mandevilla suaveolens*, deciduous but in spring coming into leaf and in summer providing large white flowers of delicious jasmine perfume; *Thunbergia Gibsoni*, an attractive vine with its profusion of orange, trumpet shaped flowers; *Manettia bicolor*, a fascinating little climber with brilliant red and yellow tubular flowers. On the other side of the fence lie the two grass lawns—separated from each other by the entrance walk to church, entered through the little iron gate, antiqued to give the appearance of weather stained bronze—gray green with touches of whitish rust here there in corners and crevices of ironwork.

The grass lawns encircle the church wall borders on east and north; the east border features two groups of bananas.

Amongst shrubs in this east border are *Nandina Domestica*, always attractive, either because of its large heads of tiny white flowers, its bright red berries or lovely foliage tints in the fall. *Beloperone* is another useful shrub—flowering all the year round — its blossom remarkably like that of the hopvine although in color, a brick-red with a white tip—a most odd but not unpleasing color scheme. A cheerful little shrub of which there are a pair here, is "Jerusalem Cherry," with its orange colored berries of a size which seem almost too large for such a tiny plant to support. A strong contrast, is *Juniperus torulosa*, a solemn, dignified looking shrub with beautiful dark green foliage; it stands erect, like a sentinel, near the choir entrance to church. Two fuchsias adorn this east border—of the variety which produces double white, streaked with red. *Begonias*, too, are repre-

sented by the dwarf varieties whose blooms are pink, red and white respectively. The dainty, demure little Campanulas of the trailing kind are also represented here by two varieties, the white flowering kind with bright green foliage and the blue flowering, grayish foliaged variety; they both love to snuggle in the crevices of the rocks which form the boundary line of this border. A delightful little plant—of which there are several here—is *Heuchera sanguinea*, or, as it is better known to many, "Coral Bells." The small coral tinted flowers on slender stems are very pleasing to the eye. Other inhabitants of this region are *Browallias*, a small plant but producing flowers of the most lovely deep blue. In a somewhat shady border such as this, *Aquilegia* (Columbine) also does well as also do the *Primulas*, *Primroses*, *Lobelias*, *Pansies* and *Bulbs* such as *Narcissus* (which include *Jonquils* and *Daffodils*).

An interesting foliage plant in this border is *Phormium tenax*, or New Zealand Flax; its leaves—of the variegated kind—are long sword-like blades radiating from the base of the plant, to a height of some 4 feet. A beautiful variety of broom—known botanically as *Genista monosperma pendula*, but referred to by poetic garden lovers as "fairy fishingpole"—must not be overlooked. It has drooping foliage resembling long pine needles and the small white flowers with which it is covered in the winter season are deliciously fragrant. It is said to have its native home on the outskirts of desert regions in Northern Africa and it thrives best in sandy places, such as the sand dunes on the coast of Spain.

(Continued in next issue)

GARDENERS READING

(Continued from Page 5) from the standpoint of Questions and Answers. The topics considered reflect the experience of the author in many years of education along gardening lines, first as professor of horticulture at Ohio State University and latterly as garden editor and consultant of *Better Homes and Gardens*.

Information on plant materials makes up a large portion of the text, but that is only a part of the vast and concentrated information that is literally in your hand, since you get at it so easily and quickly. To mention pools, garden furniture, mealybugs, paths, poison-ivy, pruning, weathervanes, compost, insecticides and fungicides is only to touch on the range of subjects that can measure up to one over a thousand, with thirty and eight left over for settling.

As an instance, the experience of this writer who has taken over an old garden, finds a lemon tree requiring all the space he would like to devote to several citrus varieties. Page 98 shows how to cleft graft, with cuts and text to simplify the matter for the amateur. Here is the suggestion and common working knowledge in making this tree over to several kinds of oranges, saving space and at the same time getting the full run of the season. Turning over the next page I find out how to bud and the illustrated directions are so complete that any gardener may have a try at it with some confidence.

In all truth there is one disturbing thought in connection with this volume. How are we going to develop gardeners and keep them if all the difficulties and troubles appear in the first chapter, so to speak. My answer to this one is that the delights and pleasures and profits are there also and timorous souls may well hesitate and search their being for the iron that will see them through. If I am wrong, call Alfred C. Hottes. He is the man who wrote the book. He lives just across the way in La Jolla. He is replete with Answers and is so friendly with all and generous with them.

Few people this far south are acquainted with The Journal of the California Horticultural Society with headquarters in San Francisco. A membership, or the Journal alone would surely be acceptable to a gardener.

The makeup of this publication is not too scientific for the average planter and there he will find au-

thoritative articles on plant materials and construction as relates to the garden. It comes under the direction of Sidney B. Mitchell, president of the society, who for many years has been telling the gardeners of California how far they may go in using the plants of temperate regions.

So it is, that we on the lower rim of the state will find in this little booklet a peculiar applicability. San Francisco and the area it serves lies in the transitional region between a temperate climate and the subtropics. Conditions of this transition are bound in a large degree to be reflected in articles. One finds material on reactions of strictly subtropical plants and gathers information on the behavior of colder climate plants working under the handicap or advantage, as the case may be, of growing seasons mild and longer.

—Roland Hoyt

The sweet pea is a native of the island of Sicily. It was first mentioned in 1695, by an Italian monk, who sent seeds to England and Holland.

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BEGONIAS FOR WINTER

(Continued from page 2)

little purses, as they do not open wide. It grows to be very large with roundish, cupped leaves, green on top and a glowing red below, all covered with fine white hairs.

Mr. Morgan of Pacific Beach produced an improved type called MORGANA, which has tinted white flowers carried on an upright stem, with a curled point on the leaf to distinguish it.

A fine specimen in this class, a seedling of Scharffiana, is LOMA ALTA, also from Montalvo Gardens. It is a fine, hearty grower, very red in stems and under side of leaves and furred with white hairs. Deep pink blooms of medium size on more erect flower stalks are much in evidence.

DUCHARTREI has a longer, lighter, green leaf, and only the veins are outlined in red underneath. It makes an extra big bush, with large waxy-white bloom on a long stem.

A fine seedling of the above is VIAUDE, reputed to have the best flowers of this group. They are pure white with petals over an inch across, with red fuzz outside, and golden centers, borne on an erect branching stem.

From Viaude have come two nice seedlings. One, NEELY GADDI, was introduced by Mrs. Gray, of Pacific Beach. It has larger, softer leaves than its parent, with red beneath and a beautiful pure-white flower with white hairs and orange stamens and a curious little rudimentary leaf on the flower panicle.

PRUNIFOLIA was brought out by the dean of begonia experts, Alfred Robinson of Point Loma. It is tall and very hairy, with huge pendent clusters of pink or white bloom. The leaves are olive-green above and deep plum beneath.

Mrs. Gray, for whom the La Jolla Branch of the American Begonia Society is named, is responsible for my favorite begonia in this category, NELLIE BLY. Not so tall growing, it has smaller, darker leaves, so thick with hairs it has a dusty look. In early winter it breaks out into lovely drooping

crests of white flowers, covered with red hairs giving a pink effect, clear-cut against the bushy dark plant. It is a seedling of CYPREA, which also is a parent of DRURYII, a cross made by another of our successful San Diego begonia culturists, Constance Bower. It has the darkest leaf of all, with a satiny dull-green sheen above and purple below, with white lacy flowers. The plant has been known to attain a height of six feet.

METALLICA, from Brazil, is a begonia you will never forget, as its leaves have the lustre of old Chinese bronze. They are light in color, medium size and toothed on the edges with red veins below. It is tall and has clusters of flowers so beset with red hairs as to resemble pink chenille.

THURSTONI is an old cross with the above, having a light brown-green leaf, very smooth and shining. It has bouquets of smaller pink flowers that complement the deep red lining of the leaves. Easy to grow, tall and showy, it is a great favorite.

Even more popular, however, is its giant counterpart, DOROTHY GRANT, produced by another local expert, William Grant. It has round cupped leaves, sometimes a foot long, brilliant as green lacquer, with red underneath and fine upright bunches of white flowers. Its growth is floppy but attractive.

BRAEMAR, a similar plant, has drooping panicles of white that make it successful in a hanging basket.

Unusual Leaf Types

After you have filled in the main mass of your border, with groups of the above plants, then you can accent the selection with those of exceptional leaf pattern.

Growing fairly tall, is a stately, branching plant, known as MRS. WALLOW. It has large, dark, wavy leaves, with handsome red facing, that are held perpendicularly. The flower clusters are erect, of tinted white. It originated in Long Beach in 1933.

If you wish fall coloring in your plants, choose JESSIE, one of the most distinctive of them all. It grows tall and full, bedecked with

the loveliest russet-green leaves, so cut and crinkled on the edges as to put a maple to shame. It was brought from Brazil to Munich in 1861 and was known as PHILLO-MANIACA, meaning "leaf-crazy," from its habit of producing tiny plants on its leaves and stems. Not the least of its attractions, is the shower of pink blooms that graces it from January to April.

There is a sport of Jessie, equally fine and tall, whose fringed and ruffled leaves are splashed with blotches of yellow, cream and rose. It is named, TEMPLINI, for the company that introduced it. The abundant blossoms are pink.

From Mexico comes BERTHA VON LOTHRINGEN, with shaded-pink flowers rising from oval, medium-sized smooth, light-green leaves, veined and netted with chocolate markings. It is not a tall grower.

COMPTA came from Brazil in 1886. It has a straggly habit but it

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and its sister plant, ZEBRINA, have amazing zebra-striped leaves. The soft gray markings on the long, waved, dark green leaves of the newer, improved types is very attractive.

On the hearty recommendation of many begonia fans, I mention the NEW HYBRIDS of DI-CHORA, the wonderful orange-flowered, drooping species from Brazil. They are the splendid production of Mrs. Robinson of Point Loma, whose talent is in the same field as that of her husband. The type of this new cross is not yet fixed so it comes in many shades, from bright pink to flaming orange-red; is a marvelous grower, and is still un-named.

Thick-stemmed, low-growing types

These types are fine to replace the tuberous begonias or other hanging basket material of summer, but they do not like too much moisture on the leaves, which are so thickly clustered that they rot when soggy.

If you are a bit sentimental and want to recall the gay nineties, when every parlor window had its thrifty clump of FEASTI, sometimes called the BEEFSTEAK BEGONIA, for the bright red lining of its dark, shining, lily-pad leaves, get a plant of it and enjoy the bower of light-pink bloom that covers it in spring.

Or try its sport, BUNCHI, with the lighter green leaf that breaks into curls and crests on the edge, like a dancer's skirts, with a lovely whirl of flowers above it, when in bloom. CONCHAEFOLIA, with a smooth leaf that makes a beautiful shell-like spiral in the middle, is a near relative.

Extra fine for hanging baskets, is MANICATA from Mexico. It does not need the lacy pink blossoms that come in February, to dress it up, because it boasts fancy collars of red hairs just at the under neck of the leaf and similar tufts on the veins below. There are variegated and crested variations of this species, more expensive, but very desirable.

For a striking specimen in pot or basket, try the Star Class, so called because the leaf is deeply cleft in points. One of the most attractive

is SUNDERBRUCHI, also from Mexico. It has a large, dark bronze leaf, deeply cut, with a light green streak up the center of each point and mottled green and red beneath. Its stems are red-spotted and thickly set with silvery hairs. In February it is covered with long stems of heavy pink flowers.

There is a fine variety of this type blooming now, called SHAR-STAR, another Rosecroft introduction. It has waxy, pink blooms on strong stems.

Of distant kinship in this class is VERSCHAFELTI, which should be planted in the ground and be pruned often. It has large, notched, light green leaves off a thick center stem crowned by huge upright fans of pink flowers that last a long time. Have a whole row of it, as it is effective and hardy.

There you have them, just a few begonia jewels for your winter garden. Most of them, coming from a cool region, will be at home in our winter climate. Select those you like, look to a loose, mildly-acid compost, a spot as sheltered from the wind as possible but with sun part of the day. Keep moist, with good drainage, and you will wonder why you ever had a winter problem, in the garden.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

(Continued from page 3) to Nature's mercies after the recent rain have all done well except one. One little aster seedling in a quite sunny location wilted so badly that I needs must baby it and bring water again. Two Palmer's Abutilons which were tiny seedlings when set out in early August are now doing nicely without pampering by me. They are quite different in appearance as they are in unlike situations. One in full sun has grown in less than four months from seed to about six inches high and has bloomed once. I would have been well pleased with its accomplishment had it not been for the plant in the shade for comparison. This last is about two feet tall with big soft leaves and many beautiful deep orange flowers. It could scarcely be surpassed by the most expensive exotic.

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